



Australian Bureau of Statistics

6291.0.55.001 - Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, Jul 2015

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Summary

Main Features

Data from the monthly Labour Force Survey are released in two stages. The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) are part of the second release, and include detailed data not contained in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) product set, which is released one week earlier.

The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) is released monthly. Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) includes data only collected in February, May, August and November (including industry and occupation).

Since these products are based on the same data as the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) publication, the 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia Explanatory Notes are relevant to both releases.

What's new in the Labour Force

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LABOUR FORCE

CHANGES TO LABOUR FORCE OUTPUTS

While the July 2015 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no 6202.0) published spreadsheets and data cubes in new formats, this issue of the detailed monthly publication published spreadsheets and data cubes in the existing format consistent with the June 2015 release. The ABS plans to publish new format spreadsheets and data cubes for all Labour Force publications from the August 2015 issues onwards.

These new format spreadsheets and data cubes will be published in the formats presented in the Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics, October 2014 (cat. no. 6292.0). A version of the new format spreadsheets containing data for this publication was attached to the Information Paper in July 2015. This version contained data as at the May 2015 issue. Spreadsheets for Labour Force, Australia (cat. no 6202.0) containing data as per the April 2015 issue were previously released with the Information Paper in May 2015. A concordance between the current and new time series identifiers was also included.

While changes to the table structure for continuing data items should not by itself cause revisions to historical Labour Force data, minor revisions to previously published data will be seen across a number of Labour Force series when new structures are introduced. The broad reasons for these revisions are outlined below:

- The method used to aggregate estimates from the individual records has changed. The process has been improved to now use only one source table, which will ensure greater consistency across outputs and facilitate more regular rebenchmarking. This single source stores data at a more finely detailed level than before since all classification items have been collated into one table, which results in a greatly increased number of cross products. As a result, estimates produced from this new source are negligibly different to what was previously published due to an alternative accumulation of rounding error. This effect mostly applies to periods before August 2006, due to the reclassification of low level data to match the latest industry and occupation standards. Data previously collected under older classifications are proportionally split into the relevant categories under the latest standards, resulting in even more finely detailed information in the source table for these earlier periods. This method of reclassification is consistent with the established processes used to produce the current industry and occupation estimates. For the first time, occupation data collected between August 1986 and November 1990 has been reclassified from the originally collected ASCO First Edition into the latest ANZSCO classification, and this time series has been restored to outputs. To ensure consistency across all outputs, there are minor revisions to estimates for this period.
- Incorrect Year of Arrival around the calendar year 2000. Year of Arrival data for the period did not have a complete date, which prevented the appropriate number of records being matched for determining gross flows. This issue has been rectified, as a result more records are available for matching. The minimum difference at the most detailed level of cross tabulation is -1,800, the maximum difference is 6,300 persons. Discrepancies occur at varying time points with the largest concentration of discrepancies occurring from the start of the series to 2000/01.

Due to this issue of the detailed monthly publication publishing spreadsheets and data cubes in the existing format consistent with the June 2015 release, the revisions noted above will not be applied to spreadsheets and data cubes in the detailed monthly release until the August 2015 issue. As a result, minor discrepancies may be seen between data published in the July 2015 issues of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no 6202.0) and the detailed monthly publication.

In addition to the format changes, the following series are planned to be introduced:

- The following new items from the November 2015 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no 6202.0) and the detailed quarterly publication (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003):
 - Monthly underutilisation
 - Volume measures of labour underutilisation
 - Leave entitlements
 - Retrenchment
 - Sector of main job (public / private)
 - Educational attainment
 - Educational attendance for the whole civilian population.

A brief article will be released for each of the new quarterly items to assist clients in interpreting the data.

The new outputs result from a review conducted in 2010-11 of the labour household survey program. The outcomes of the review were announced in 2012 but implementation has been delayed while priority was given to investigations into recent Labour Force results, the annual seasonal reanalysis and comprehensive testing of the system producing the new outputs.

Progress with Recommendations From the Independent Technical Review - July 2015

PROGRESS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INDEPENDENT TECHNICAL REVIEW - JULY 2015

INTRODUCTION

The Executive Summary of the Independent Technical Review (McCarthy Review) into the ABS's Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the ABS response to the Review's recommendations were released on the ABS website on 9 December 2014. For details see the November 2014 issue of *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0).

This note provides an update on the implementation of the recommendations. Work is continuing on several of the recommendations and a further update will be provided by the end of 2015.

OVERALL STATUS

Of the 16 recommendations arising from the review:

- the ABS has completed 8,
- five related to how we undertake future work and, as such, are ongoing,
- one will be progressed as part of the Statistical Business Transformation Program and
- three are in progress.

Recommendation 2, which focussed on the main cause of the substantive problem with the labour force series in August 2014, was implemented with the October 2014 issue of *Labour Force, Australia* with refinements introduced with the March 2015 issue as part of the annual seasonal reanalysis.

PROGRESS BY RECOMMENDATION

The following section sets out a summary version of each recommendation from the independent technical review of the LFS. It also sets out the status of the response to the recommendation - completed, in progress or included in work plans.

Recommendation 1:

The labour force characteristics of those responding by e-forms should continue to be analysed to determine how they compare with those being interviewed by telephone or in person and whether or not a changing take-up of e-forms could have an effect on the LFS estimates.

Response status

Completed. Findings reported in the February 2015 issue of *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) and will be repeated every 6 months.

Recommendation 2:

The LFS estimates should be seasonally adjusted using prior corrections for the supplementary surveys that have been assessed as having a significant effect on the seasonality of the LFS estimates from now on. The methodology should be closely examined as part of the annual seasonal reanalysis of LFS data in early 2015 to determine whether or not the method should be refined further prior to it being applied to the full length of LFS monthly series from February 1978 onwards.

Response status

Completed. Implemented in the October 2014 issue. Methodology further refined as part of the annual seasonal reanalysis implemented with the March 2015 issue.

Recommendation 3:

The ABS should warn users of LFS data of the possibility of instability in the seasonally adjusted LFS estimates in those months in which new supplementary surveys are being conducted from 2014 on and that it will be at least three years before the effects on the LFS estimates of the new supplementary survey program can be measured with any degree of certainty. Steps should be taken to identify any such effects (e.g. by analysing individual records that change LF status more than once) and adjust the core LFS estimates, if necessary.

Response status

Completed. Statement included in the February 2015 issue and in the Explanatory Notes.

Recommendation 4:

It is possible that the lower response rates may be having an effect on the estimates of employment and/or unemployment. The impact of lower response rates should be analysed further.

Response status

Completed. Findings reported in the April 2015 issue of *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001). This analysis examined the impact of lower response rates on the labour force estimates and found that it was not significant. This is subject to ongoing vigilance in the preparation of labour force estimates each month.

Recommendation 5:

Expand the description of seasonal adjustment and trend in the 6202.0 Explanatory Notes (and in any related publications) by including the links between an original series and its seasonal, irregular and trend components (i.e. $O = T * S * I$) as an introduction to the more technical aspects already included in the notes.

Response status

Completed. Explanatory Notes updated from the February 2015 issue of *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) onwards.

Recommendation 6:

The ABS should highlight the fact that the changes in the numbers of persons employed, unemployed and not in the labour force from one month to the next are the net outcomes of considerably larger gross flows between these categories. One means of doing so would be to include some comments on the gross flows each month in the “Force Commentary” section of *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0).

Response status

Completed. Additional commentary included from the January 2015 issue of *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) onwards.

Recommendation 7:

Bayesian techniques should be considered as a means of identifying and resolving potential problems in core LFS series.

Response status

In progress. Article included in the May 2015 issue of *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) outlining the nature of our proposed investigation. This work is currently underway, with a further update planned for release with the November 2015 issue.

Recommendation 8:

An ongoing program should be established to systematically re-calculate the weights underlying composite estimation. The frequency of re-calculation should be based on an analysis of the effects of the changes in the weights between 2007 and the current time.

Response status

Completed. Investigation completed and findings reported in the March 2015 issue of *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001). The investigation concluded that the current weights underlying composite estimation were still appropriate.

Recommendation 9:

The LFS system and associated collection systems need to be replaced so that proposed

changes to the LFS can be formally assessed (e.g. through splitting the sample and comparing responses to new and old questionnaires). As an interim measure, a separate means of storing seasonal factors in the LFS system should be implemented so changed seasonal adjustment methods can be tested without impinging on the LFS production environment and that the seasonal factors from the SEASABS production system can be used selectively, if required.

Response status

Ongoing. Update included in the March 2015 issue. Targeted improvements have been made and further improvements will be implemented as part of the Statistical Business Transformation Program over coming years.

Recommendation 10:

Given the importance of the LFS data and the adverse effect of the associated supplementary survey program on these key economic indicators, the ABS should consider discontinuing the supplementary surveys, or conduct them in a manner that has a negligible impact on the LFS data.

Response status

In progress. The ABS has requested the views of stakeholders on continuing the supplementary survey program as the prior correction methodology (recommendation 2) allows the ABS to properly adjust for any impact on the LFS.

Recommendation 11:

The LFS processing and publication cycle should be closely monitored to determine whether or not it is necessary to delay publishing LFS data until early in the week following the current timetable on an ongoing basis or at least when changes are being made to the LFS. In particular, delaying the publication should be considered if any significant change is to be implemented.

Response status

In progress. The ABS has requested the views of stakeholders on delaying the release of labour force publications (*Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0), *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed* (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and *Labour Force, Australia Detailed, Quarterly*. (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)) by one week.

Recommendation 12:

The ABS should involve key stakeholders in any proposals to change the LFS or the ways in which LFS estimates are compiled. Any proposed changes should be communicated in advance via a release on the ABS website providing details of what is happening and why.

Response status

Ongoing. This recommendation refers to how the ABS should approach change programs in the future. The ABS accepts the recommendation.

Recommendation 13:

Statistics Canada has faced similar criticisms to the ABS regarding perceived volatility in its LFS estimates. One of the responses was to publish an article on interpreting monthly changes in employment from the labour force survey to show that recent history was, in fact, less volatile than the past. Although the recent volatility in the Australian LFS had a specific cause, the internal ABS analysis of the general volatility in the Australian LFS estimates should be expanded and formalised and published to help educate users about this issue.

Response status

Completed. The findings of a report into the volatility of Australian labour force estimates over time were released with the June 2015 issue of *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed* (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001). The analysis found that, for key national seasonally adjusted estimates (employed persons, unemployed persons and the unemployment rate), the current level of volatility is below historical averages

Recommendation 14:

Wherever feasible, future changes to the LFS program should be introduced individually, spread out over time rather than bunched as has been the case during the past 18 months or so, to the extent they can be controlled (e.g. the timing of introducing Population Census benchmarks and benchmarking to ERP estimates is non-discretionary).

Response status

Ongoing. Timing of future changes will be discussed with key stakeholders.

Recommendation 15:

If it does become necessary to make a number of changes to the LFS in a short time, specific risk management strategies need to be put in place to assess the potential impacts of each of the changes. A small working group consisting of senior Labour Branch/LFS staff and representatives of Methodology Division, Time Series Analysis Branch and Technology Services Division should evaluate the individual and cumulative impacts of the proposed changes and provide a formal risk management report to the relevant FAS and Deputy Statistician.

Response status

Ongoing. The ABS accepts this recommendation including the need to assess the combined statistical risks.

Recommendation 16:

As part of any future Quality Incident Response Plan (QIRP), the effects on LFS seasonality of changes in institutional arrangements (e.g. changes in the LFS questionnaire or in the supplementary survey program or in the incidence of response by e-forms) should be considered explicitly.

Response status

Ongoing. This recommendation refers to how the ABS should approach quality issues programs in the future. The ABS accepts the recommendation.

Change to Status in Employment Output

CHANGE TO STATUS IN EMPLOYMENT OUTPUT

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From the August 2015 release of Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) onwards, the ABS will output data in accordance with the revised Status in Employment standard. The new output categories are:

- Employee;
- Owner-manager of incorporated enterprise with employees;
- Owner-manager of incorporated enterprise without employees;
- Owner-manager of unincorporated enterprise with employees;
- Owner-manager of unincorporated enterprise without employees;
- Contributing family workers.

The revised Status in Employment standard results from a review of the Labour Household Surveys. For further details see Outcomes of the Labour Household Surveys Content Review, 2012 (cat. no. 6107.0).

The new standard combines elements of the previous 'Status in Employment' classification, and the old 'Employment Type' classification. This standard allows categories to be grouped as appropriate in order to perform a wide range of analyses. For example, the new standard allows aggregation suitable for both National Accounts or employment relationship contexts. The previous Status in Employment classification was based on the definition of employee in the National Accounts (used to derive compensation of employees) whereas Employment Type was more representative of the employment relationship for labour market analyses.

A comparison of the previous classifications and the revised Status in Employment standard is in Figure 1. The treatment of contributing family workers has not changed in the revised classification (i.e. they continue to be classified as people who work without pay in a business or farm operated by a relative).

FIGURE 1. REVISED STATUS IN EMPLOYMENT

	Previous status in employment	Previous employment type
Employee	Employee	Employee
Owner-manager of incorporated enterprise with employees	Employee	Owner-manager of incorporated enterprise
Owner-manager of incorporated enterprise without employees	Employee	Owner-manager of incorporated enterprise
Owner-manager of unincorporated enterprise with employees	Employer	Owner-manager of unincorporated enterprise

Further, from July 2014, employed people who identify as being paid by commission only (without a retainer), and identify as not working in their own business are classified as employees, whereas previously they were classified as owner-managers. This change has meant that it is no longer possible to classify these employed people in accordance with the previous outputs (as they are now considered employees, they are no longer asked about the characteristics of the business, such as whether it is incorporated). In July 2014, approximately 10,000 people (or 0.1% of those employed) were reclassified in this way. From the July 2015 release onwards, the entire time series is revised to the new standard.

For further information on the Status in Employment standard, please refer to Standards for Labour Force Statistics (cat. no. 1288.0); or contact Labour Market Statistics on (02) 6252 7206 or email <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

Article Archive

This section provides an archive of articles and analysis published in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), promoting the effective use of labour force statistics. Articles are sorted by publication date.

Articles on labour related topics are also available in Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0) and Australian Social Trends (cat. no. 4102.0).

Labour Force Survey Archive

What's New in the Labour Force	June 2015
Update on Recommendations 10 and 11 from the Independent Technical Review	June 2015
What's New in the Labour Force	May 2015
Update on Recommendation 7 from the Independent Technical Review	May 2015
What's New in the Labour Force	April 2015
What's New in the Labour Force	March 2015
Annual Seasonal Reanalysis	March 2015
Update on Recommendations from the Independent Technical Review	March 2015
What's new in the Labour Force	February 2015
Online Collection in the Labour Force Survey	February 2015
Rebenchmarking Labour Force Estimates	February 2015
What's new in the Labour force	January 2015
What's new in the Labour force	December 2014
Independent Technical Review into the Labour Force Survey and ABS Response	November 2014
What's new in the Labour force	November 2014
Removing the effect of Supplementary Surveys from seasonally adjusted estimates	October 2014
Changes in this and upcoming labour force issues	September 2014
Changes in this and upcoming labour force issues	August 2014
What's new in the Labour force	July 2014
What's new in the Labour force	June 2014

What's new in the Labour force	May 2014
What's new in the Labour force	February 2014
Rebenchmarking Labour Force Estimates to the 2011 Census of Population and Housing	January 2014
What's new in the Labour force	December 2013
Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics	December 2013
What's new in the Labour Force	November 2013
Understanding full-time/part-time status in the Labour Force Survey	September 2013
What's new in the Labour Force	September 2013
Fact sheet did you know - Underemployment	June 2013
What's new in the Labour Force	June 2013
New Labour Force Sample Design	May 2013
Annual Seasonal Reanalysis	May 2013
What's new in Labour Force	May 2013
Transition to online collection of the Labour Force Survey	April 2013
What's new in Labour Force	April 2013
Estimating Jobs in the Australian Labour Market	February 2013
Forthcoming improvements to the content of the Labour Force and Labour Supplementary Surveys	January 2013
What's new in Labour Force	January 2013
Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics	January 2013
Rebenchmarking of Labour Force Series	November 2012
Upcoming changes to the Labour Force Survey	July 2012
Labour Household Surveys content review and the Labour Force Survey	June 2012
Employment and mining in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia	May 2012
ABS Response to recent concerns expressed about employment estimates	April 2012
Population Benchmarks and Labour Force Survey	April 2012
Annual Seasonal Reanalysis	March 2012
Exploring Labour Force Data on joblessness	February 2012
Employment level estimates versus employment to population explained	January 2012
Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics	November 2011
Historical Revisions	February 2011
Impact of the floods on the Labour Force Survey	January 2011

About this Release

A range of Excel spreadsheets and SuperTABLE datacubes. The monthly spreadsheets contain broad level data covering all the major items of the Labour Force Survey in time series format, including seasonally adjusted and trend estimates. The monthly datacubes contain more detailed and cross classified original data than the spreadsheets.

Explanatory Notes

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Data from the monthly Labour Force Survey are released in two stages. The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) are part of the second release, and include detailed data not contained in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) product set, which is released one week earlier.

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Quality Declaration - Summary

QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Labour Force statistics are compiled from the Labour Force Survey which is conducted each month throughout Australia as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) household survey program. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

RELEVANCE

The Labour Force Survey provides monthly information about the labour market activity of Australia's resident civilian population aged 15 years and over. The Labour Force Survey is designed to primarily provide estimates of employment and unemployment for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

TIMELINESS

The Labour Force Survey enumeration begins on the Sunday between the 5th and 11th of the month, except for the Christmas and New Year holiday period. In December enumerations starts between the 3rd and 9th (4 weeks after November enumeration begins). In January enumeration starts between the 7th and 13th (5 weeks after December enumeration begins).

Key estimates from the Labour Force Survey are published in two stages. The first, Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), is released 32 days after the commencement of enumeration for the month, with the exception of estimates for December which are published 39 days after the commencement of enumeration.

The second stage includes detailed data that were not part of the first stage and are published in Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003). The second stage is released 7 days after the first stage.

ACCURACY

The Labour Force Survey is based on a sample of private dwellings (approximately 26,000 houses, flats etc) and non-private dwellings, such as hotels and motels. The sample covers about 0.32% of the Australian civilian population aged 15 years or over. The Labour Force Survey is designed primarily to provide estimates of key labour force statistics for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: non-sampling error and sampling error.

Non-sampling error arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures. Non-sampling error also arises because information cannot be obtained from all persons selected in the survey. The Labour Force Survey receives a high level of cooperation, with an average response rate for the last year being 94%.

Sampling error occurs because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all dwellings in the survey is given by the standard error. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

Standard errors of key estimates and movements since the previous month are available in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0). The standard error of other estimates and movements may be calculated by using the spreadsheet contained in Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

COHERENCE

The ABS has been conducting the Labour Force Survey each month since February 1978. While seeking to provide a high degree of consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey, sound survey practice requires careful and continuing maintenance and development to maintain the integrity of the data and the efficiency of the collection.

The changes which have been made to the Labour Force Survey have included changes in sampling methods, estimation methods, concepts, data item definitions, classifications, and time series analysis techniques. In introducing these changes the ABS has generally revised previous estimates to ensure consistency and coherence with current estimates. For a full list of changes made to the Labour Force Survey see Chapter 20 in Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

INTERPRETABILITY

The key estimates from the Labour Force Survey are available as original, seasonally adjusted and trend series. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove the irregular influences which may be present and therefore month-to-month movements may not be reliable indicators of underlying behaviour. To assist in interpreting the underlying behaviour, the ABS produces the trend series by smoothing the seasonally adjusted series to reduce the impact of the irregular component. For further information, see A Guide to Interpreting Time Series - Monitoring Trends (cat. no. 1349.0).

Further information on the terminology and other technical aspects associated with statistics from the Labour Force Survey can be found in the publication Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), which contains detailed Explanatory Notes, Standard Error information and a Glossary.

ACCESSIBILITY

Please see the Related Information tab for the list of products that are available from this collection.

Time Series Spreadsheet (I-Note) - Time Series Spreadsheet

Data relating to unemployed persons looking for first full-time job is not available from July 2014. As highlighted in the Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics (cat. no. 6292.0), duration of unemployment since last full-time job is no longer collected in the Labour Force Survey questionnaire from July 2014. As this information is used, in part, to identify whether a currently unemployed person has been employed full-time in the past, unemployed persons looking for first full-time job is no longer able to be derived on a comparable basis and is therefore not available. This specific series had been highlighted to be removed with the introduction of new labour force outputs, but this has been brought forward.

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Time Series Spreadsheet (I-Note) - Time Series Spreadsheet

As part of the Labour Force change program the ABS has made changes to the standard for Status in Employment and the new questionnaire introduced in July no longer allows persons to be classified according to the old standard. Specifically it is no longer possible to classify persons who work for a commission without a retainer on a consistent basis with the old questionnaire. The changes to the questionnaire came into effect from July 2014, however the changes to the output will not be incorporated until the release of new Labour Force outputs. The main changes to the standard involve new groups for Owners/Managers of Incorporated Enterprises, and a small change to the definition of employees to include persons paid by commission without a retainer. Previously persons working for a commission without a retainer were classified as either Employers or Own Account Workers. With the change to the questionnaire, it is not possible to assign this group to the appropriate category in the current standard due to questionnaire sequencing. Persons who worked for a commission without a retainer have been classified to the appropriate category in the current standard based on the distribution in the corresponding month in 2013. When the first lot of new content is introduced the entire series will be revised to be consistent with the revised standard back to 1991.

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Time Series Spreadsheet (I-Note) - Time Series Spreadsheet

Due to the flooding in Queensland in January 2011, the relative standard errors for January 2011 will vary across regions and will be higher than normal in some regions. The RSEs for the Darling Downs-South West and Ipswich City Statistical Regions are expected to be approximately 50% higher, while the RSEs for the Brisbane City Inner Ring Statistical Region will increase by approximately 25%. The Brisbane City Outer Ring, West Moreton and Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West Statistical Regions will have RSEs approximately 10% higher. All other regions have minimal differences. However from February 2011, the data returns to normal. Refer to the article Impact of the floods on the Labour Force Survey in January 2011 for more information.

The new labour force sample was phased-in over four months from May to August 2013. See the article on page 10 of the May 2013 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for more information. During phase in of the new sample, standard errors associated with key labour force data were expected to increase by approximately 10% at a national level, however increased standard errors and variability in the estimates may be more evident in detailed regional data during this time.

Data Cubes (I-Note) - Data Cubes

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The new labour force sample was phased-in over four months from May to August 2013. See the article on page 10 of the May 2013 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for more information. During phase in of the new sample, standard errors associated with key labour force data were expected to increase by approximately 10% at a national level, however increased standard errors and variability in the estimates may be more evident in detailed regional data during this time.

Data Cubes (I-Note) - Data Cubes

Due to the flooding in Queensland in January 2011, the relative standard errors for January 2011 will vary across regions and will be higher than normal in some regions. The RSEs for the Darling Downs-South West and Ipswich City Statistical Regions are expected to be approximately 50% higher, while the RSEs for the Brisbane City Inner Ring Statistical Region will increase by approximately 25%. The Brisbane City Outer Ring, West Moreton and Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West Statistical Regions will have RSEs approximately 10% higher. All other regions have minimal differences. However from February 2011, the data returns to normal. Refer to the article Impact of the floods on the Labour Force Survey in January 2011 for more information.

The new labour force sample was phased-in over four months from May to August 2013. See the article on page 10 of the May 2013 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for more information. During phase in of the new sample, standard errors associated with key labour force data were expected to increase by approximately 10% at a national level, however increased standard errors and variability in the estimates may be more evident in detailed regional data during this time.

Standard Errors

Estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) are based on information collected from people in a sample of dwellings, rather than the entire population. Hence the estimates produced may differ from those that would have been produced if the entire population had been included in the survey. The most common measure of the likely difference (or 'sampling error') is the **standard error (SE)**.

The ABS considers that estimates with a relative standard error of 25% or more may be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

To determine if an item has a relative standard error of 25% or more, in SuperTABLE, right click in the centre of the table, select annotate cells - standard annotations, and select 'Annotate RSE cut-off values'.

To indicate those cells in spreadsheets with a relative standard error of 25% or more, annotations have been applied prior to dissemination.

In addition, the tables below have been supplied to show estimates at which the relative standard error is 25%. Estimates of the size indicated in the tables, or smaller, are considered to be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

Due to the January 2011 flooding in Queensland the relative standard errors for January 2011 will be higher than normal in some regions, therefore for Queensland the estimates at which the relative standard error is 25% will be higher than they appear in the tables below. However from February, the data returns to normal.

The new labour force sample was phased-in over four months from May to August 2013. During phase in of the new sample, standard errors associated with key labour force data were expected to increase by approximately 10% at a national level, however increased standard errors and variability in the estimates may be more evident in detailed regional data during this time.

The RSEs for July 2013 (50% old sample, 50% new sample) and onwards will be subject to revisions in the future, as more information is known about the new sample after it has been

introduced.

Additional information on how standard errors for LFS estimates are produced is available in Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

State	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Aust
Employed									
Feb-78 — Sep-82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	4.5
Oct-82 — Aug-87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep-87 — Feb-89	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Mar-89 — Aug-92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	2.0	1.4	3.5
Sep-92 — Aug-97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep-97 — Sep-98	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Oct-98 — Feb-03	5.9	3.1	3.7	2.5	2.2	1.1	1.3	0.9	5.5
Mar-03 — Oct-07	6.3	3.0	4.4	2.3	2.5	1.3	1.5	1.1	6.6
Nov-07	6.2	3.2	4.3	2.3	2.5	1.3	1.4	1.1	6.4
Dec-07	6.1	3.4	4.3	2.3	2.6	1.3	1.3	1.1	6.2
Jan-08	6.0	3.6	4.2	2.3	2.6	1.3	1.3	1.2	6.0
Feb-08	5.9	3.8	4.2	2.4	2.7	1.3	1.2	1.2	5.9
Mar-08	5.9	4.1	4.2	2.4	3.0	1.2	1.1	1.2	5.7
Apr-08	5.8	4.4	4.4	2.5	3.1	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.6
May-08	5.7	4.7	4.3	2.5	3.1	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.4
Jun-08	5.5	4.9	4.3	2.5	3.3	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.3
Jul-08 — Aug-09	6.9	6.1	5.3	3.1	4.0	1.5	1.2	1.6	7.4
Sep-09	6.5	5.8	5.0	2.9	3.8	1.5	1.1	1.5	7.0
Oct-09	6.1	5.5	4.7	2.8	3.6	1.4	1.0	1.4	6.5
Nov-09	5.8	5.2	4.5	2.6	3.4	1.3	1.0	1.4	6.2
Dec-09 — Jun-13	5.5	4.9	4.3	2.5	3.3	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.8
Jul-13 — Jan-14	7.7	3.8	5.5	2.7	3.8	1.4	0.3	1.7	7.8
Feb-14 onwards	7.9	3.9	5.6	2.7	3.8	1.4	0.3	1.7	7.9
Unemployed									
Feb-78 — Sep-82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	4.5
Oct-82 — Aug-87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep-87 — Feb-89	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Mar-89 — Aug-92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	2.0	1.4	3.5
Sep-92 — Aug-97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep-97 — Sep-98	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Oct-98 — Feb-03	5.7	5.7	4.5	2.6	3.3	1.3	3.2	1.4	4.9
Mar-03 — Oct-07	6.0	5.4	4.9	2.9	3.6	1.6	2.2	1.6	5.2
Nov-07	6.1	5.4	5.0	2.9	3.7	1.6	2.1	1.7	5.2
Dec-07	6.2	5.5	5.0	2.9	3.8	1.7	1.9	1.7	5.2
Jan-08	6.3	5.6	5.0	3.0	4.0	1.7	1.8	1.8	5.2
Feb-08	6.4	5.7	5.1	3.0	4.1	1.7	1.7	1.8	5.1
Mar-08	6.7	5.7	5.2	3.1	4.5	1.8	1.6	1.9	5.1
Apr-08	6.8	5.9	5.5	3.2	4.6	1.9	1.5	1.9	5.2
May-08	6.9	6.0	5.5	3.3	4.8	1.9	1.4	2.0	5.1
Jun-08	7.1	6.1	5.6	3.3	5.0	1.9	1.4	2.1	5.1
Jul-08 — Aug-09	9.3	8.0	7.4	4.4	6.6	2.5	1.8	2.8	7.3
Sep-09	8.7	7.5	6.8	4.1	6.1	2.4	1.6	2.5	6.8
Oct-09	8.1	7.0	6.4	3.8	5.7	2.2	1.5	2.4	6.4
Nov-09	7.5	6.5	6.0	3.5	5.3	2.1	1.5	2.2	6.0
Dec-09 — Jun-13	7.1	6.1	5.6	3.3	5.0	1.9	1.4	2.1	5.7
Jul-13 — Jan-14	7.3	6.6	8.4	3.7	5.8	1.7	1.3	2.2	7.1

Feb-14 onwards	7.4	6.7	8.6	3.8	5.9	1.8	1.3	2.3	7.3
NILF									
Feb-78 — Sep-82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	4.5
Oct-82 — Aug-87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep-87 — Feb-89	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Mar-89 — Aug-92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	2.0	1.4	3.5
Sep-92 — Aug-97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep-97 — Sep-98	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Oct-98 — Feb-03	6.4	3.7	4.1	3.2	2.7	1.2	1.4	1.1	6.0
Mar-03 — Oct-07	7.8	3.7	5.2	3.0	3.2	1.5	2.0	1.3	7.3
Nov-07	7.6	3.9	5.1	3.0	3.2	1.5	1.8	1.3	7.0
Dec-07	7.4	4.1	5.1	3.0	3.3	1.5	1.7	1.4	6.8
Jan-08	7.3	4.4	5.0	3.0	3.4	1.5	1.6	1.4	6.6
Feb-08	7.1	4.7	5.0	3.1	3.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	6.3
Mar-08	7.1	5.0	4.9	3.1	3.8	1.5	1.3	1.5	6.2
Apr-08	7.0	5.4	5.3	3.2	3.9	1.5	1.2	1.5	6.0
May-08	6.8	5.7	5.2	3.2	4.0	1.5	1.1	1.6	5.8
Jun-08	6.6	6.0	5.2	3.2	4.1	1.5	1.1	1.6	5.6
Jul-08 — Aug-09	8.3	7.6	6.5	4.0	5.2	1.8	1.4	2.0	8.0
Sep-09	7.8	7.2	6.1	3.7	4.9	1.7	1.3	1.9	7.4
Oct-09	7.3	6.7	5.8	3.5	4.6	1.6	1.2	1.8	6.9
Nov-09	6.9	6.4	5.4	3.3	4.4	1.6	1.2	1.7	6.5
Dec-09 — Jun-13	6.6	6.0	5.2	3.2	4.1	1.5	1.1	1.6	6.2
Jul-13 — Jan-14	8.4	4.4	9.8	3.6	4.5	1.8	0.7	2.5	9.0
Feb-14 onwards	8.5	4.5	9.9	3.7	4.6	1.8	0.8	2.5	9.1

Greater Capital City Statistical Areas	Feb-78	Oct-82	Sep-87	Mar-89	Sep-92	Sep-97 — Oct-98	Feb-03
	—	—	—	—	—	Sep-98	
	Sep-82	Aug-87	Feb-89	Aug-92	Aug-97	—	
Greater Sydney	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	5.3	5.7	5.8
Rest of NSW	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	5.3	5.7	5.8
Greater Melbourne	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	3.3
Rest of Victoria	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.3	3.2
Greater Brisbane	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.7	3.4
Rest of Queensland	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.6	4.3	3.6
Greater Adelaide	2.5	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.7
Rest of South Australia	2.5	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.5
Greater Perth	2.5	2.0	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.6	2.3
Rest of Western Australia	2.5	2.0	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.8	2.2
Greater Hobart	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.9
Rest of Tasmania	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1
Mar-03 Mar-08 Jul-08 — Nov-09 Jul-13 — Feb-14							
— Oct-09 — Jan-14 onwards							
Feb-08 Jun-08 Jun-13							
Greater Sydney	6.5	5.7	7.1	5.7	7.6	7.7	
Rest of NSW	6.4	5.6	7.0	5.6	7.5	7.6	
Greater Melbourne	3.2	5.1	6.4	5.1	4.0	4.0	
Rest of Victoria	3.1	5.0	6.3	5.0	3.9	3.9	
Greater Brisbane	4.1	4.0	5.0	4.0	5.9	6.0	
Rest of Queensland	4.4	4.3	5.4	4.3	6.3	6.4	
Greater Adelaide	2.5	2.7	3.4	2.7	3.0	3.0	
Rest of South Australia	2.4	2.5	3.1	2.5	2.8	2.8	

Greater Perth	2.6	3.5	4.3	3.5	3.9	4.0	
Rest of Western Australia	2.5	3.3	4.1	3.3	3.7	3.8	
Greater Hobart	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.3	
Rest of Tasmania	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.5	
Statistical Area Level 4 Oct-98 Regions	Mar-03	Mar-08	Jul-08	Nov-09	Jul-13	Feb-14 onwards	
	Feb-03	Feb-08	Jun-08	Oct-09	Jun-13	Jan-14	
Central Coast	7.4	8.5	7.2	9.4	7.2	10.2	10.4
Sydney - Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury	7.2	8.3	7.0	9.2	7.0	10.0	10.2
Sydney - Blacktown	7.3	8.3	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.0	10.2
Sydney - City and Inner South	8.5	9.7	8.3	10.8	8.3	11.7	11.9
Sydney - Eastern Suburbs	9.6	11.0	9.3	12.2	9.3	13.1	13.4
Sydney - Inner South West	7.3	8.4	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.1	10.3
Sydney - Inner West	7.7	8.8	7.5	9.8	7.5	10.6	10.8
Sydney - North Sydney and Hornsby	7.6	8.6	7.3	9.6	7.3	10.4	10.6
Sydney - Northern Beaches	7.8	8.9	7.6	9.9	7.6	10.7	10.9
Sydney - Outer South West	7.3	8.4	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.1	10.3
Sydney - Outer West and Blue Mountains	7.3	8.3	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.0	10.2
Sydney - Parramatta	7.8	8.9	7.6	10.0	7.6	10.8	11.0
Sydney - Ryde	7.7	8.8	7.5	9.8	7.5	10.6	10.8
Sydney - South West	7.5	8.6	7.3	9.6	7.3	10.4	10.6
Sydney - Sutherland	7.4	8.4	7.2	9.4	7.2	10.1	10.3
Capital Region	7.2	8.2	7.0	9.2	7.0	9.9	10.1
Central West	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Coffs Harbour - Grafton	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Far West and Orana	7.4	8.4	7.2	9.4	7.2	10.1	10.3
Hunter Valley exc	7.1	8.1	6.9	9.0	6.9	9.8	10.0
Newcastle							
Illawarra	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Mid North Coast	7.5	8.6	7.3	9.6	7.3	10.3	10.6
Murray	7.6	8.6	7.4	9.6	7.4	10.4	10.6
New England and North West	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Newcastle and Lake Macquarie	7.1	8.1	6.9	9.0	6.9	9.8	9.9
Richmond - Tweed	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Riverina	7.6	8.6	7.4	9.6	7.4	10.4	10.6
Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven	9.0	10.3	8.7	11.4	8.7	12.3	12.6
Melbourne - Inner	4.1	3.9	7.2	9.4	7.2	5.2	5.3
Melbourne - Inner East	3.6	3.4	6.2	8.2	6.2	4.5	4.6
Melbourne - Inner South	3.7	3.5	6.4	8.4	6.4	4.7	4.8
Melbourne - North East	3.8	3.6	6.6	8.6	6.6	4.8	4.9
Melbourne - North West	3.7	3.6	6.5	8.6	6.5	4.7	4.8
Melbourne - Outer East	3.8	3.6	6.6	8.7	6.6	4.8	4.9

Melbourne - South East	3.6	3.4	6.3	8.3	6.3	4.6	4.7
Melbourne - West	3.5	3.4	6.1	8.1	6.1	4.4	4.5
Mornington Peninsula	3.6	3.5	6.4	8.3	6.4	4.6	4.7
Ballarat	4.0	3.8	6.9	9.1	6.9	5.0	5.1
Bendigo	3.8	3.7	6.7	8.8	6.7	4.9	5.0
Geelong	3.7	3.5	6.5	8.5	6.5	4.7	4.8
Hume	4.3	4.1	7.4	9.7	7.4	5.4	5.5
Latrobe - Gippsland	4.1	3.9	7.2	9.4	7.2	5.2	5.3
North West	3.9	3.7	6.8	8.9	6.8	4.9	5.0
Shepparton	4.3	4.1	7.4	9.7	7.4	5.4	5.5
Warrnambool and South	3.7	3.5	6.5	8.5	6.5	4.7	4.8
West							
Brisbane - East	4.1	5.1	5.1	6.7	5.1	8.1	8.2
Brisbane - North	4.1	5.2	5.1	6.7	5.1	8.1	8.3
Brisbane - South	4.2	5.2	5.2	6.8	5.2	8.2	8.4
Brisbane - West	4.1	5.2	5.1	6.7	5.1	8.2	8.3
Brisbane Inner City	4.2	5.3	5.3	6.9	5.3	8.4	8.6
Ipswich	4.0	5.0	5.0	6.5	5.0	7.9	8.1
Logan - Beaudesert	4.3	5.4	5.3	7.0	5.3	8.4	8.6
Moreton Bay - North	3.9	4.9	4.8	6.4	4.8	7.7	7.9
Moreton Bay - South	3.9	4.9	4.8	6.3	4.8	7.7	7.9
Cairns	4.9	6.2	6.1	8.0	6.1	9.7	9.9
Darling Downs -	4.6	5.8	5.7	7.5	5.7	9.1	9.3
Maranoa							
Fitzroy	4.2	5.3	5.2	6.9	5.2	8.3	8.5
Gold Coast	4.3	5.5	5.4	7.1	5.4	8.6	8.7
Mackay	4.2	5.3	5.2	6.9	5.2	8.3	8.5
Queensland - Outback	4.7	5.9	5.8	7.6	5.8	9.2	9.4
Sunshine Coast	4.3	5.4	5.3	7.0	5.3	8.5	8.7
Toowoomba	4.6	5.8	5.7	7.5	5.7	9.0	9.2
Townsville	4.7	5.9	5.8	7.6	5.8	9.2	9.4
Wide Bay	4.6	5.8	5.7	7.5	5.7	9.0	9.2
Adelaide - Central and	3.3	3.1	3.3	4.3	3.3	3.7	3.8
Hills							
Adelaide - North	3.3	3.0	3.3	4.3	3.3	3.7	3.8
Adelaide - South	3.4	3.1	3.4	4.4	3.4	3.8	3.9
Adelaide - West	3.7	3.4	3.7	4.8	3.7	4.1	4.2
Barossa - Yorke - Mid	3.5	3.2	3.5	4.5	3.5	3.9	4.0
North							
South Australia -	3.7	3.4	3.7	4.8	3.7	4.1	4.2
Outback							
South Australia - South	3.1	2.8	3.1	4.0	3.1	3.5	3.5
East							
Mandurah	2.4	2.8	4.0	5.2	4.0	4.6	4.7
Perth - Inner	3.1	3.5	4.9	6.5	4.9	5.8	5.9
Perth - North East	2.9	3.3	4.6	6.1	4.6	5.4	5.5
Perth - North West	2.8	3.2	4.5	5.9	4.5	5.2	5.3
Perth - South East	2.9	3.3	4.7	6.1	4.7	5.5	5.6
Perth - South West	2.7	3.1	4.3	5.7	4.3	5.0	5.1
Bunbury	2.4	2.8	4.0	5.2	4.0	4.6	4.7
Western Australia -	2.8	3.3	4.6	6.0	4.6	5.4	5.5
Outback							
Western Australia -	2.6	3.0	4.2	5.5	4.2	4.9	5.0
Wheat Belt							

Greater Hobart	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.3
Launceston and North East	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.9	1.5	1.7	1.8
Tasmania - South East	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.4	1.9	2.2	2.2
Tasmania - West and North West	1.3	1.6	1.6	2.0	1.6	1.8	1.8
Darwin	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.9
Northern Territory - Outback	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.9

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